

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Brazil

SUBJECT Communist Activity in the Polish Colony in
Sao Paulo

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Polish Communists in Sao Paulo have made considerable progress during the latter half of 1948 and early 1949, while the anti-Communist, anti-Warsaw group has suffered reverses. The Communist group has not only become more active, but it has increased its membership. One of the largest anti-Warsaw associations in the State of Sao Paulo has been infiltrated by the Communists, and many neutral Poles have been converted to the Communist side. Polish Communist activity in Brazil, as well as in other anti-Communist countries, is following the "NEP" policy. This policy calls for neutrality, using the slogan "No Fight - No Parties - You Must Help Poland".
2. Polish consular and diplomatic personnel have been actively organizing and assisting in the penetration of the anti-Warsaw Polish organizations. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of "friendly neutrals" who preach "unity - neutrality - recovery for destroyed Poland - charity - etc." This technique has produced results in favor of the Warsaw group, which has long sought the support of the factory-worker group in Sao Paulo, the city with the largest Polish colony in Brazil.
3. The Polish Consulate in Sao Paulo received 170,000 cruzeiros from Warsaw for the propaganda campaign. After the money was received, the first step taken was to recruit the weaker personalities of the London-Polish faction, as well as the confirmed leftists. The second step was an intensification of the propaganda campaign through magazines, newspapers, books, and pamphlets, which were distributed free of charge. Emphasis was placed on the reconstruction of Poland and the need of being united for the good of the fatherland. All mention of the USSR and Communists was carefully avoided, a tactic which made the approach successful with a number of Poles.
4. A "neutral" party was formed under the leadership of Karol Polakiewicz, Wladyslaw Bankowski, and Mieczyslaw Rogatko, all three of whom are close friends of the Polish Consul in Sao Paulo, Franciszek Marcin Winnicki. These three men have been advanced money by Winnicki and have been favored in business transactions with the Polish import-export firm, Polbraz.* The following persons are active in the "neutral" group and have also taken part in the Pilsudski Association** meetings:
 - a. Mikolaj Torba is an active Communist in Sao Paulo, who recently became an officer in the Pilsudski Association. He associates with Eugenjusz Nafalski,*** the leader of a Polish Communist faction in Sao Paulo.

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- b. Mackiewicz (fnu) is an officer in the Pilsudski Association. He is an active Communist, but has no connections with Nafalski and his group.
 - c. Skowronek (fnu) is an active Communist and a deputy officer of the Pilsudski Association. He is a confidant of Father Jan (Pawel) Sliwinski, a Polish Roman Catholic priest in Sao Paulo who is a known Communist.
5. The London Polish group is very much disturbed over the fact that the Warsaw faction has succeeded in securing control over the files, offices, and leadership of the Pilsudski Association, and in gaining the tolerance of the Polish colony. The following individuals, who have previously been members of the anti-Warsaw colony in Sao Paulo, have become pro-Warsaw and in some cases have participated actively in the campaign against London Poles:
- a. Karol Polakiewicz, who was Vice-President of the Polish Parliament from 1932 to 1937, lives at Avenida Sao Joao 2053, Sao Paulo. He organized a Peasants' Party in Poland known as the "Green Front", which was composed of fascists and rural progressives. Polakiewicz was a major in 1921 under Pilsudski, but he joined the opposition in 1935 after Pilsudski's death. Polakiewicz has made a political about-face three times since 1935. He went from Poland to France, and fled to Brazil after the fall of France. He had been politically inactive until recently and it is believed that his poor financial situation may have contributed to his "conversion". Since joining the Warsaw faction, Polakiewicz has purchased an apartment, a financial impossibility prior to that time.
 - b. Wladyslaw Bankowski, is a former captain in the Polish Army Corps of Engineers, who fled to Brazil with his wife and children in 1940, after the fall of France. He is presently working in a Sao Paulo factory as an engineer. He exercises considerable influence over the colony of Polish factory workers in that city. Bankowski was avowedly anti-Warsaw for a long time and succeeded in being elected President of the Pilsudski Association. Following his election to that post, he gradually brought about a change in its leadership and membership. It is now estimated that ninety percent of the members are pro-Warsaw. Prior to his election, it was well known that pro-Warsaw elements were unwelcome both as members and visitors to the meetings. Bankowski, however, has not only invited Winnicki to the meetings, but also such well-known Communists as Mikolaj Torba, fnu Mackiewicz, and Father Jan Perkowski.**** Bankowski has served as right-hand man to Polakiewicz in directing the newly-organized group of "neutrals".
 - c. Mieczyslaw Rogatko, the former Polish Vice Consul in Sao Paulo, now works with Polakiewicz. He is described as intelligent, active, and useful in the "neutral" group, and is in frequent contact with Winnicki.
 - d. Stanislaw Hamulinski, who is described as cooperating with the Warsaw faction, has been attempting to maintain friendly relations between the anti- and pro-Warsaw groups. The London Poles, who learned of his connections with the "neutrals" and the Warsaw Poles, are now taking steps to expel him from the Uniao Cultural dos Polonezes no Brazil** (Cultural Union of Poles in Brazil).

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[REDACTED] Nafalski, an engineer at the Matarazzo factory in Sao Paulo, professes to have no interest in politics. Actually, he is a leading Polish Communist who has been known to meet with Polish Communist leaders from other communities and members of the Polish Legation.

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[REDACTED] Perkowski, who has been in Brazil over twenty years, is a Bishop of the Polish National Church, a very small Protestant sect. He has been active in Communist propaganda and is considered to be an opportunist willing to work for anyone who will pay him.

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